



For Release: Friday, September 16, 2016

16-1873-SAN

WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

Technical information: (415) 625-2270 • BLSinfoSF@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

ERRATA

Incorrect prices for prescription drugs were used for the CPI-U and CPI-W indexes from May through August 2016 in a number of areas. Several indexes were affected, including the all items and medical care indexes. A list of the series affected can be found at www.bls.gov/bls/errata/cpi-price-corrections-10182016.htm, and the corrected data are available in the CPI database (www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm).

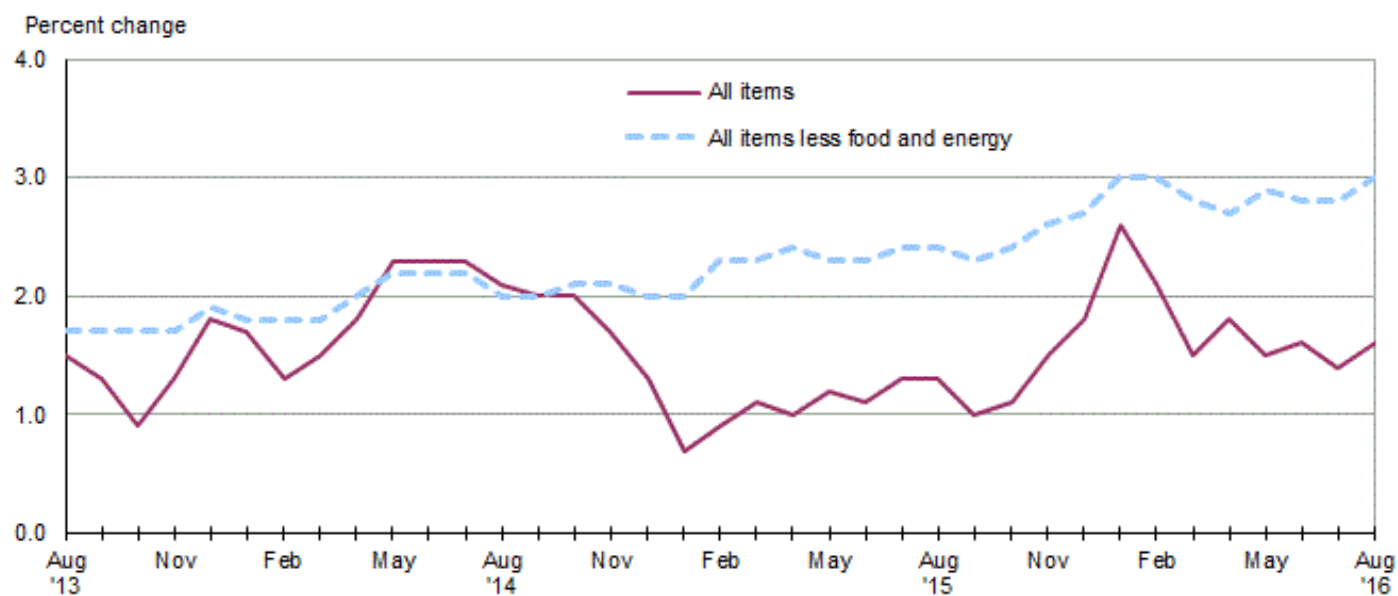
Consumer Price Index, West Region — August 2016

Area prices were up 0.1 percent over the past month, up 1.6 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), inched up 0.1 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) The August increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and apparel. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 1.6 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices fell 12.0 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 3.0 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).) This is the 10th consecutive month that this index has increased by more than 2.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, August 2013–August 2016



Food

Food prices edged down 0.1 percent for the month of August. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home declined 0.4 percent, but prices for food away from home edged up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 0.4 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 4.1 percent, but prices for food at home declined 2.1 percent since a year ago.

Energy

The energy index declined 2.1 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-5.2 percent). Prices for electricity advanced 0.3 percent, and prices for natural gas service rose 4.8 percent in August.

Energy prices fell 12.0 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-23.3 percent). Prices for natural gas service increased 2.0 percent, and prices paid for electricity rose 2.5 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.3 percent in August. Higher prices for apparel (2.3 percent) and medical care (0.7 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for new and used motor vehicles (-1.2 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-1.0 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 3.0 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (5.0 percent) and shelter (4.9 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in household furnishings and operations (-0.8 percent) and education and communication (-0.1 percent).

Table A. West Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.5	1.4	0.4	2.6	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6
February.....	0.6	1.9	0.4	2.5	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9	0.1	2.1
March.....	0.9	2.6	0.9	2.4	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.5
April.....	0.6	3.0	0.2	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8
May.....	0.3	3.2	0.2	2.0	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5
June.....	-0.2	3.1	-0.2	2.0	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.6
July.....	-0.1	2.9	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.4
August.....	0.2	3.0	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3	0.1	1.6
September.....	0.4	3.5	0.5	2.2	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0		
October.....	0.0	3.4	0.4	2.5	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.1		
November.....	-0.2	3.2	-0.7	1.9	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7	-0.2	1.5		
December.....	-0.3	2.7	-0.5	1.7	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3	-0.1	1.8		

The September 2016 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on Tuesday October 18, 2016.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016	Aug. 2015	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	248.267	248.412	248.537	1.6	0.1	0.1
All items (December 1977=100).....	401.310	401.545	401.746			
Food and beverages.....	251.503	251.396	251.107	0.5	-0.2	-0.1
Food.....	251.582	251.483	251.125	0.4	-0.2	-0.1
Food at home.....	246.086	245.520	244.517	-2.1	-0.6	-0.4
Food away from home.....	258.137	258.704	259.267	4.1	0.4	0.2
Alcoholic beverages.....	247.140	246.919	247.565	1.8	0.2	0.3
Housing.....	264.688	265.868	266.962	4.1	0.9	0.4
Shelter.....	300.867	302.297	303.830	4.9	1.0	0.5
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	315.746	317.191	318.858	5.4	1.0	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	315.603	317.070	318.592	5.0	0.9	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	315.608	317.077	318.605	5.0	0.9	0.5
Fuels and utilities.....	287.839	289.254	292.102	2.7	1.5	1.0
Household energy.....	249.795	252.217	255.258	2.5	2.2	1.2
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	252.137	254.664	258.008	2.4	2.3	1.3
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	282.011	282.942	283.658	2.5	0.6	0.3
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	196.812	203.315	213.155	2.0	8.3	4.8
Household furnishings and operations.....	128.832	129.019	127.703	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0
Apparel.....	118.627	116.579	119.204	1.3	0.5	2.3
Transportation.....	202.092	200.972	197.258	-5.9	-2.4	-1.8
Private transportation.....	195.078	194.966	191.675	-6.3	-1.7	-1.7
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾	101.889	102.117	100.866	-1.4	-1.0	-1.2
New vehicles.....	147.680	148.294	146.718	0.3	-0.7	-1.1
New cars and trucks ^{(3) (4)}	102.562	102.996	101.896	0.2	-0.6	-1.1
New cars ⁽⁴⁾	145.566	145.919	144.370	-0.8	-0.8	-1.1
Used cars and trucks.....	140.147	139.344	138.690	-5.0	-1.0	-0.5
Motor fuel.....	214.564	212.239	201.320	-23.1	-6.2	-5.1
Gasoline (all types).....	213.878	211.507	200.512	-23.3	-6.2	-5.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾	211.393	208.904	197.945	-23.7	-6.4	-5.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(4) (5)}	203.730	202.213	191.411	-23.3	-6.0	-5.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾	210.575	208.772	198.577	-21.3	-5.7	-4.9
Medical Care.....	470.348	470.568	473.807	5.0	0.7	0.7
Medical care commodities.....	355.450	357.402	360.284	4.6	1.4	0.8
Medical care services.....	506.997	506.562	509.890	5.1	0.6	0.7
Professional services.....	348.961	348.740	351.269	3.8	0.7	0.7
Recreation ⁽³⁾	111.839	112.010	112.195	1.2	0.3	0.2
Education and communication ⁽³⁾	137.905	137.394	137.840	-0.1	0.0	0.3
Other goods and services.....	407.374	408.712	408.664	1.7	0.3	0.0
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	248.267	248.412	248.537	1.6	0.1	0.1
Commodities.....	179.038	178.520	177.562	-2.6	-0.8	-0.5
Commodities less food & beverages.....	142.908	142.252	141.076	-4.8	-1.3	-0.8
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	180.153	178.848	177.417	-6.5	-1.5	-0.8
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel.....	223.632	222.769	218.722	-9.0	-2.2	-1.8
Durables.....	108.646	108.534	107.597	-2.1	-1.0	-0.9
Services.....	312.230	313.015	314.183	4.0	0.6	0.4
Rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	320.176	321.703	323.347	5.0	1.0	0.5
Transportation services.....	294.653	292.409	289.217	2.6	-1.8	-1.1

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016	Aug. 2015	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016
Other services.....	341.254	341.692	342.714	1.8	0.4	0.3
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care.....	238.120	238.262	238.248	1.3	0.1	0.0
All items less food.....	247.924	248.107	248.305	1.7	0.2	0.1
All items less shelter.....	228.083	227.681	227.204	-0.3	-0.4	-0.2
Commodities less food.....	146.835	146.185	145.048	-4.5	-1.2	-0.8
Nondurables.....	215.785	215.023	214.108	-2.8	-0.8	-0.4
Nondurables less food.....	185.106	183.854	182.531	-5.9	-1.4	-0.7
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	225.582	224.777	221.154	-8.0	-2.0	-1.6
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	337.394	337.286	337.959	2.8	0.2	0.2
Services less medical care services.....	298.693	299.554	300.579	3.9	0.6	0.3
Energy.....	232.755	232.523	227.710	-12.0	-2.2	-2.1
All items less energy.....	251.462	251.636	252.131	2.6	0.3	0.2
All items less food and energy.....	252.210	252.432	253.073	3.0	0.3	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities.....	139.804	139.347	139.368	-0.4	-0.3	0.0
Energy commodities.....	218.754	216.414	205.360	-22.6	-6.1	-5.1
Services less energy services.....	316.860	317.539	318.575	4.1	0.5	0.3

⁽¹⁾ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

⁽²⁾ Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

⁽³⁾ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

⁽⁴⁾ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁽⁵⁾ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.